

# Community Profile

Bland County, Virginia



## Bland County

The County of Bland is strategically located at the center of the U.S. Eastern Market and is within one day's drive of more than one-half of the U.S. population.

Bland County is an excellent location for business. Interstate 77 cuts through the middle of the county and positions the county to be strategically located in the center of the U.S. Eastern markets. Bland County is a rural area whose people continue to practice a traditional work ethic not found in many other areas. The county is known for its two tunnels on Interstate 77 that are located at each end of the county and offer a memorable experience. Bland County has land and infrastructure available for businesses to locate in our Bland Commerce Park. Visit us and see our opportunities.

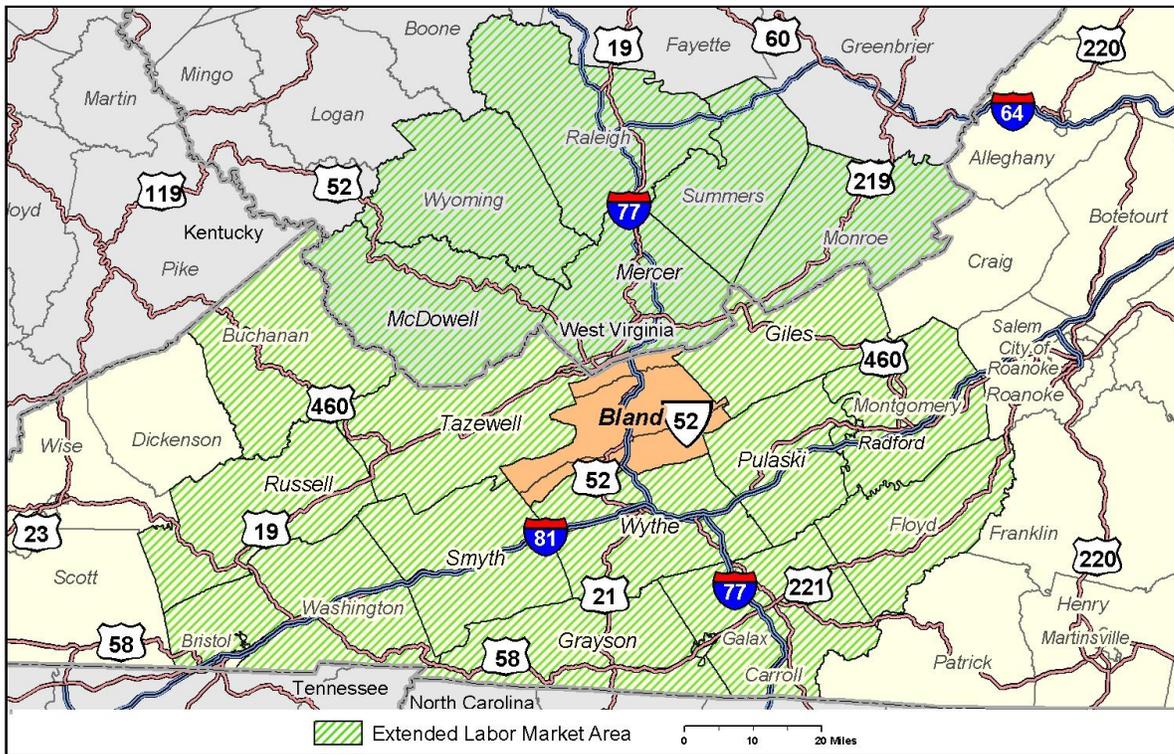


### Location

Positioned as the front door to southwestern Virginia, the County of Bland is contiguous to West Virginia and has arterial access to the coal fields of Virginia, West Virginia, and Kentucky, as well as the industry's major suppliers.

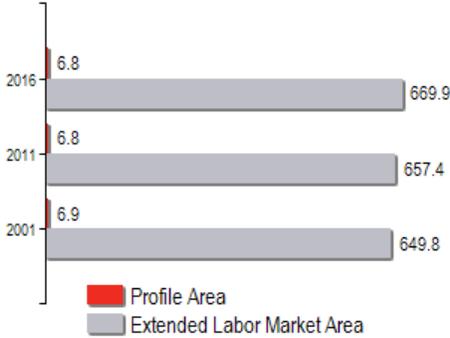
Bland County is located in southwestern Virginia on the border of West Virginia. The county is strategically positioned on Interstate 77 with the intersection of I-77 and I-81, 13 miles to the south of the county. This location gives Bland County ready access to the markets of the Great Lakes Region, the Northeast and the Southeast.

Roanoke is approximately 90 miles east and Richmond, the state capital, is 250 miles east.

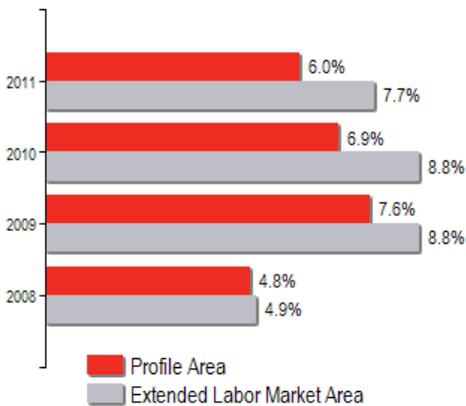


**Labor Market Data**

**Population in Thousands**



**Unemployment Rates**



**Population**

Gender Distribution (2011)	Male	Female
Bland County	55.2%	44.8%

**Race/Ethnicity (2011)**

Classification	Profile Area	Extended Labor Area
White	6,499	612,077
Black	244	27,078
Two or More	51	8,372
Asian	22	8,264
American Indian or Alaska Native	1	1,432
Pacific Islander	1	180
Hispanic (may be of any race)	50	1,000

**Median Age (2011)** 44 years

**Civilian Labor Force 2011**

Bland County	3,477
Extended Labor Market Area	302,774
Total	306,251

**Labor Force Participation (2007-2011)**

Bland County	50.2%
Extended Labor Market Area	52.7%

**Unemployment**

**Unemployment Rate (December 2012)**

Bland County	5.3%
Extended Labor Market Area	7.1%
Statewide	5.4%

**Unemployed (2011)**

Bland County	208
Extended Labor Market Area	23,388
Total	23,596

**Underemployed (4th Quarter 2012)**

Bland County	445
Extended Labor Market Area	37,782
Total	38,227

**Labor Market Data**

The region's advanced transportation network provides access to a skilled and experienced workforce of approximately 150,000 within a 45-minute commute.

Commute Time (2007-2011)		
Worked from home	8	.3%
Under 15 minutes	535	20.0%
15-24 minutes	793	29.5%
25-34 minutes	642	23.9%
35-44 minutes	180	6.7%
45-59 minutes	352	13.1%
Over 60 minutes	183	6.8%
Mean Travel Time to Work (minutes)		27

Additional Labor Resources	
High School Graduates Not Continuing (2011-2012)	5
Two-Year College Graduates (Spring 2011)	1,547
Two-Year College Enrollees (Fall 2011)	8,999
Other College and University Graduates (Spring 2011)	842
Total	11,393

**Labor Market Data**

The County of Bland is the recent winner of the VACo Achievement Award and the VEDA Community Economic Development Award.

**Career Readiness Certificate (01/01/2011-10/31/2012)**

Virginia's Career Readiness Certificate (CRC) assists employers by certifying that a recipient possesses core skills in applied math, reading for information, and locating information. The CRC certification is based on established Workeys® assessment tests. Virginia uses a three-tiered approach (bronze, silver, gold) to credentialing certificate holders that is based on the recipient's level of development skills.

Bland County	29
Extended Labor Market Area	1,777
Total	1,806

**Educational Attainment**

On-Time Graduation Rate (Class of 2012)	88.5%
Percentage of Bland County population age 25+ who are high school graduates (2007-2011)	81.3%
Percentage of Bland County population age 25+ who have earned a Bachelor's Degree or higher (2007-2011)	10.8%

**Labor Market Data**

"With its excellent workforce to draw from, access to dual interstates, and low cost of doing business, the County of Bland is an excellent choice for any business or industry." Todd Hodge, President, Quarter Tyme, Inc.

Employment by Sector* (2nd Qtr. 2012)		
Agriculture Forestry Fishing and Hunting	N.D.	N.D.
Mining Quarrying and Oil and Gas Extraction	N.D.	N.D.
Utilities	N.D.	N.D.
Construction	51	2.7%
Manufacturing	526	27.4%
Wholesale Trade	188	9.8%
Retail Trade	61	3.2%
Transportation and Warehousing	N.D.	N.D.
Information	N.D.	N.D.
Finance and Insurance	16	0.8%
Real Estate and Rental and Leasing	N.D.	N.D.
Professional Scientific and Technical Services	N.D.	N.D.
Management of Companies and Enterprises	N.D.	N.D.
Administrative and Support and Waste Management	N.D.	N.D.
Educational Services	N.D.	N.D.
Health Care and Social Assistance	178	9.3%
Arts Entertainment and Recreation	17	0.9%
Accommodation and Food Services	12	0.6%
Other Services	14	0.7%
Total Government	616	32.1%
Federal Government	13	0.7%
State Government	335	17.5%
Local Government	268	14.0%
Unclassified	0	0
Total	1,918	100.0%

N.D. - Not Disclosed

\*By Business Establishment

**Labor Market Data**

We have demonstrated our ability to close deals and facilitate new business location decisions. In 2004, the County of Bland ranked 5th for Overall Economic Development Performance per capita compared to all other counties within the Commonwealth.

**Major Employers**

**Manufacturing**

<i>Company</i>	<i>Product/Service</i>	<i>Estimated Employment</i>
ABB Power T & D Co., Inc.	Transformers	100 - 299
East River Metals, Inc.	Fabricated metal	20 - 49

**NonManufacturing**

<i>Company</i>	<i>Product/Service</i>	<i>Estimated Employment</i>
Bland Correctional Center	Correctional institution	100 - 299
General Injectables & Vaccines, Inc.	Wholesale drugs	100 - 299

**Union Activity (2/2007 - 2/2012)**

Petitions filed for decertification	0
Petitions filed for representation	0
Petitions filed for raid	0
Elections won by union	0
Elections won by company	0

**Labor Market Data**

<b>Estimated Earnings (May 2011)</b>				
<i>Occupation</i>	<i>Median Wage</i>	<i>Mean Wage</i>	<i>Median Salary</i>	<i>Mean Salary</i>
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers, Hand	\$10.71	\$11.49	\$22,283.66	\$23,892.16
Industrial Truck and Tractor Operators	\$15.94	\$15.57	\$33,150.65	\$32,377.84
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	\$14.01	\$15.74	\$29,135.49	\$32,741.93
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	\$15.26	\$15.81	\$31,747.78	\$32,877.75
Machinists	\$17.08	\$16.91	\$35,513.33	\$35,176.27
Team Assemblers	\$10.96	\$12.02	\$22,800.41	\$25,010.60
First-Line Supervisors of Production and Operating Workers	\$22.05	\$23.09	\$45,864.78	\$48,027.26
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	\$15.38	\$15.48	\$32,002.32	\$32,212.23
Industrial Machinery Mechanics	\$17.89	\$18.50	\$37,203.37	\$38,479.04
Bus and Truck Mechanics and Diesel Engine Specialists	\$16.75	\$17.20	\$34,851.80	\$35,762.41
Office Clerks, General	\$11.26	\$11.93	\$23,436.15	\$24,829.30
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Except Legal, Medical, and Executive	\$13.27	\$13.58	\$27,609.51	\$28,236.13
Receptionists and Information Clerks	\$11.12	\$11.33	\$23,132.98	\$23,556.80
Customer Service Representatives	\$13.50	\$15.06	\$28,064.77	\$31,323.56
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	\$13.79	\$14.50	\$28,692.40	\$30,151.45
First-Line Supervisors of Office and Administrative Support Workers	\$20.17	\$21.81	\$41,946.59	\$45,364.57
Mechanical Engineers	\$34.33	\$33.07	\$71,413.92	\$68,782.09
Industrial Engineers	\$27.99	\$28.91	\$58,228.44	\$60,131.90
Computer Support Specialists	\$18.33	\$18.84	\$38,112.88	\$39,182.63
Accountants and Auditors	\$22.65	\$26.14	\$47,115.39	\$54,372.93

**Per Capita Personal Income (2011)**  
\$30,495

**Median Family Income (2007-2011)**  
\$49,926

**Education**

Wytheville Community College offers advanced instruction and custom training programs for new and existing business and industry.

Public School Enrollment (Fall 2012)		
<i>Level</i>	<i>Number</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>
Combined	2	518
High School	2	373

Student Teacher Ratio (FY2011)	
Elementary	11:1
Secondary	12:1

Per Pupil Expenditure (FY 2011)
\$9,157.00

On-Time Graduation Rate (Class of 2012)
88.5%

High School Graduates Continuing Education (2011-2012)
93.0%

**Advanced Programs (2010-2011)**

**Governor's Schools**

A. Linwood Holton Governor's School

Students taking 1 or more Advanced Placement (AP) Courses	1
Students taking 1 or more college courses	40

**Education**

There is direct access to three major universities (Virginia Tech, Radford University, and Concord University), three 4-year colleges, and three community colleges all within 60 miles or less.

Workforce Development Facilities	
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Type</i>
Bristol Workforce Center	VEC Workforce Center
Galax Workforce Center	VEC Workforce Center
Giles County Partnership For Excellence	Satellite Center
Marion Workforce Center	VEC Workforce Center
People Incorporated Workforce Development	Satellite Center
Radford Workforce Center	VEC Workforce Center
Workforce Development Center - Christiansburg	Satellite Center
Workforce Development Center - Dublin	Satellite Center
Workforce Development Center - Floyd	Satellite Center
Wytheville Workforce Center	VEC Workforce Center

Higher Education Facilities — Fall 2011	
<i>Facility</i>	<i>Enrollment</i>
New River Community College	5,207
Wytheville Community College	3,792
Concord University	2,822
Bluefield State College	1,929
Bluefield College	763
National College - Bluefield Campus	†

† Enrollment figures are not available.

## Transportation

With I-77 bisecting the county and only minutes from the crossroads of I-77 & I-81, the County of Bland has superior access to one of the most sophisticated transportation systems on the Eastern Seaboard.

Interstates	
Name	Distance
I-77	0.0 miles (0.0 km.)
I-81	4.2 miles (6.7 km.)
I-64	31.3 miles (50.4 km.)
I-381	48.8 miles (78.5 km.)
I-581	48.9 miles (78.7 km.)

Note: Measured from border of locality/region.

Highways				
Highway 42	Highway 52	Highway 598	Highway 61	Highway 98

Note: 4-Lane US Highways located within locality/region.

Commercial Air Service	
<i>Raleigh County Memorial Airport, Beckley, WV -- 57.7 miles (92.9 km.)</i>	
United Express	

Note: Within a 75-mile drive of the center of the locality.

## Transportation

Routes 42 and 52 provide a scenic alternative to interstate travel and add a redundant layer to our transportation network.

### General Aviation Service

<i>Name</i>	<i>Runway Length</i>
Mercer County Airport, Bluefield, WV	4,742 ft (1,445 m)

### Freight Rail Service

CSX Transportation

### Seaports

<i>Name</i>	<i>Distance</i>
Port of Virginia	348.0 miles (560.1 km)

Note: Driving distance from the center of the locality to Port of Virginia and any other seaports within 100 miles.

### Other Ports of Entry

<i>Name</i>	<i>Distance</i>
New River Valley Airport (Virginia TradePort)	32.7 miles (52.6 km)
Port of Washington - Dulles	309.8 miles (498.5 km)

Note: Driving distance from the center of the locality to Port of Washington - Dulles and any other port of entry within 100 miles.

**Utilities**

The County of Bland has a tremendous excess of water and wastewater capacity, ease of access to 3-phase power, and a true-redundant broadband network.

Utilities	
Electric	Appalachian Power
Telecommunications	Sprint/United Telephone-Southeast
Telecommunications	Verizon South
Telecommunications	Burke's Garden Telephone Company
Water	Bland County Service Authority
Waste Water Treatment	Bland County Service Authority
Solid Waste Disposal	Wythe-Bland Public Service Authority

### Financial Institutions

The Bland County Economic Development Authority will assist qualifying businesses with accessing any and all local, regional, and state incentives and funding programs.

Financial Institutions — 2nd Qtr 2012 Assets	
<i>Bank</i>	<i>Assets (millions)</i>
Branch Banking and Trust Company	\$173,678.2
New Peoples Bank, Inc.	\$726.2

## Bland County

The County of Bland is home to 56 miles of the famous Appalachian Trail, the most of any other county along the 2,174 mile trek.

### Government

Bland County has a County Administrator and a four-member Board of Supervisors.

The county has a comprehensive plan, subdivision ordinance, and zoning ordinance.

Bland is the county seat. There are no incorporated towns within the county.

### Taxes

Localities in Virginia collect a 1% sales tax. They do not tax other items taxed at the State level.

Counties and cities in Virginia are separate taxing entities. Therefore, a company pays taxes to either a county or to a city.

If a company is located in a town, it pays town and county taxes except for utility taxes which are paid only to the town and the license tax which is paid only to the town unless town law permits the additional collection of a county tax.

Manufacturers pay real estate, machinery and tools, truck and automobile, utility, and sales taxes.

Nonmanufacturers pay real estate, tangible personal property, truck and automobile, utility, and sales taxes. They also may pay either a merchants' capital or a license tax.

*Manufacturer's Tax Profile (Bland) [pdf](#)*

*Non-Manufacturer's Tax Profile (Bland) [pdf](#)*

## Bland County

Within the county or minutes thereof, you can experience golfing, skiing, theatre, museums, fine cuisine, indigenous music, state and federal parks, boating, fishing, hunting, trail hiking and biking, equestrian and much more.

### Community Facilities

Bland County residents utilize medical facilities located in nearby localities such as Wythe and Tazewell Counties. Wythe County Community Hospital, a progressive 106-bed facility that offers emergency, intensive and coronary care services, also has a heliport for air ambulance service. Tazewell County has two medical facilities, the Tazewell County Hospital and Humana Hospital Clinch Valley that serve area residents.

With a total of 250 beds, these facilities offer a range of general medical services that include emergency care, surgery, diagnostic capabilities and obstetrics.

The county operates a public health department that offers an array of public health services.

Three physicians and five dentists maintain rotating practices in Bland County. One dentist maintains a full-time practice in the county. The county has a 60-bed nursing home, Kegley Manor that offers long-term care for the elderly.

The Smyth-Bland Regional Library serves county residents with a branch library that contains some 9,000 volumes. Residents can also utilize the library facilities at Wytheville Community College. This library has 30,000 volumes plus films, videotapes, records and a genealogical and local history collection.

## Bland County

The 369-square mile community is well known for its rich history and distinct culture.

### Community Facilities (continued)

Approximately 30 churches representing the predominant Protestant faiths are located in Bland County. Catholic churches are located in Wythe and Tazewell Counties. A Jewish synagogue is located in Bluefield, West Virginia.

General retail and service needs of county residents are met at several shopping locations dispersed throughout the county. Additional shopping opportunities are available at shopping centers and malls in the Wytheville and Bluefield areas.

## Bland County

The County of Bland is known by countless visitors for two of its many distinct landmarks, the tunnel along I-77 at both ends of the county provides a unique hedge and memorable getaway in and out of Virginia.

### Lifestyle

As a rural community, Bland County's churches, schools, 4-H Clubs and other social and civic organizations are active in sponsoring recreational and cultural programs.

Bland County offers area residents a variety of outdoor recreational assets. Portions of the Jefferson National Forest and the Appalachian Trail are located in the county. Camping, hunting, fishing, hiking and picnicking opportunities are virtually unlimited. The area is a hunter's paradise where bear, deer and small game can be hunted in season. For the fisherman, brook and rainbow trout are abundant in the small mountain streams while bass and other species are found in the larger streams. For the golf enthusiast, Wolf Creek Golf and Country Club has an 18-hole course that is open to the public.

Other activities and sporting events available to area residents include plays, concerts, musicals and craft fairs sponsored by Wytheville Community College; professional Appalachian League baseball; and car racing in Wythe and Pulaski Counties.

[Virginia's aCorridor Profile](#)

[Virginia's aCorridor](#)